

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Dalstroy was removed from the MVD in April or May of 1953 and may have been taken over by the Ministry of Construction or may have been divided among a number of ministries. It is also possible that a separate committee was organized for construction in the Far North. On the basis, however, of what happened in the case of GULAG, it is probable that Dalstroy was returned to the MVD in the spring of 1954.
2. GULAG, having been transferred in April and May 1953 to the Ministry of Justice, proved, with all its camps and colonies, to be too large and cumbersome for the Ministry of Justice to handle. It was about five times as large as the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice did not have the experience or the staff to cope with such a supervisory problem, and the result was that GULAG was able to fulfill only 20 percent of its plan in 1953. The transfer of GULAG to the Ministry of Justice was an experiment. After the transfer, the Government reached the conclusion that no benefit would ensue and GULAG was then returned to the MVD, probably in January 1954. GUSHOSDOR, which had been transferred to the Ministry of Transport and Road Machine Building is probably also now back in the MVD.<sup>2</sup> All these miscellaneous economic enterprises had been separate directorates responsible to the Minister.
3. There was also a Chief Directorate of Gold and Precious Metals Mining in the MVD which was transferred to the Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy at the time of Stalin's death.<sup>3</sup> This directorate was in the MVD because its work was done primarily by prisoners.

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4. It was Beriya's idea to transfer the Chief Directorate of Gold and Precious Metals Mining out of the MVD, for the MVD would have become too unwieldy and would not have been able to cope with it. Apparently the MVD wanted to transfer all of the miscellaneous enterprises into those ministries where they would legally and logically belong. Although Beriya played a major role in the transfer of the Chief Directorate of Gold and Precious Metals Mining, it was a decision of the Government to transfer this directorate.
5. [redacted] In general, all the supervisory personnel of the miscellaneous directorates such as Dalstroy and GULAG were staff employees (sotrudniki) of the MVD. Thus, the chief of Dalstroy and its other main headquarters personnel, as well as the chief of Dalstroy in Magadan, were all MVD sotrudniki. Dalstroy did not have a permanent prisoner working force but obtained it through contract.
6. [redacted] Dalstroy has offices in Moscow at Gogolevskiy Bulvar, house #24; another somewhere on ~~Malaya Bronnaya~~ ulitsa; and a third in the MVD hotel on Ploshchad Mayakovskogo. [redacted] the first is the recruitment office for the Far North.
7. Dalstroy has working for it not only prisoners, but also many civilians. Engineers, teachers, and technicians could sign up for two or three years and return at the termination of the contract. Recruiting announcements for Dalstroy are made all over the Soviet Union, but few persons want to go there. If a person is a specialist, and is willing, he may be recruited. He receives a free ticket to his destination and money for food. After he arrives at his destination, he receives a considerable cash sum for his initial living expenses. His salary will be higher by 50 to 150 percent than in any other place in the USSR. If a man has a good specialty he can earn a good salary and persons who have lived there for two or three years can come back with money at the end of their contracts. The man's family may accompany him. Normally a small family, e.g., a wife or a wife and one child, would go, but men with large families generally would go alone for the two or three years. A man in bad health would not last long in the Far North.
8. An applicant goes to the Dalstroy office and makes his request for employment. He states his specialty and, if he wishes, the particular place he desires to go, i.e., Magadan. An agreement is reached between the applicant and Dalstroy and a contract is signed to the effect that the applicant binds himself to work in a particular place for a specific period of time.
9. Dalstroy hires forced labor from GULAG and pays a stipulated sum of money, probably 30 to 50 rubles apiece. Dalstroy and GULAG sign a contract, and GULAG then sends a group of prisoners to the site where they will work and live. GULAG will be responsible for the construction of living quarters if the Dalstroy enterprise is to be set up in a newly exploited area in virgin territory. Dalstroy may, however, contribute some help in the construction of living quarters.
10. In general, prisoners working for GULAG are employed in mines for gold and other ores, on the construction of hydroelectric stations, on the Volga or Kakhovka, or on the construction of canals. Uranium mines employ nothing but prisoners. GULAG men do not work in factories or plants.
11. When the Second Chief Directorate of the MVD moved into the offices on the 9th floor of the MVD hotel on Ploshchad Mayakovskogo in May and June 1953, it occupied the former offices of GULAG, which had just moved out. Lieutenant General Nikishov, Deputy Chief of GULAG, was not seen during the move, and it was rumored that he was away on TDY.
12. Magadan Oblast was formed because, over the last few years, a large number of resettlers and deportees had come into the area and some form of civilian administration was necessary to care for them. Magadan is a very small town with no industry; however, the gold fields are not far away.

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13. [redacted] Dalstroy [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] might have its own vehicles but would not have trains 25X1  
or aircraft, as the planes are all under the Civil Air Fleet and the trains 25X1  
are "centralized". Dalstroy might have barges, but not ships or tugs. The  
latter would be under the Ministry of Water Transport. Barge crews and truck  
drivers would be Dalstroy personnel.
1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] GULAG was twice 25X1  
as large as the Ministry of Justice. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. GUSHOSDOR was the Chief Directorate of Highway 25X1  
Construction of the MVD.
3. [redacted] Comment. After Stalin's death, the Ministry of Nonferrous 25X1  
Metallurgy became part of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry.

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